Thefts in trains

2548. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt of theft in trains;

(b) if so, the details of the thefts occurred during the last two years, zone-wise; and

(c) the present status of each case reported, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shifting the mining activities of KIOCL

2549. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KIOCL management has decided to shift its mining activities to Bellary; and

(b) if so, by when it would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) KIOCL has submitted its application for grant of mining lease in Ramanadurg iron ore deposits in Bellary-Hospet region in the State of Karnataka. Karnataka State Cabinet has decided to allot 50% of Ramanadurg Iron Ore Deposits in favour of KIOCL. However, getting a Mining Lease in this area is dependent on the outcome of a Karnataka High Court case pending regarding the allotment in this lease area. Mining activities by KIOCL can start in this area within about five years after grant of the mining lease.

KIOCL's shifting of mining activities to Bellary will depend on getting mining lease in this area.

Requirement of iron ore for KIOCL

2550. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether against the daily requirement of 11,000 MT of iron ore, KIOCL is now supplied only 3350 MT per day through NMDC from Bellary region;

(b) if so, whether with a view to meet this shortfall, Government propose to transport the entire 11,000 MT of iron ore per day, sourced indigenously or overseas, through sea route as this mode of transportation is comparatively cheaper and eliminates pollution and traffic congestion caused by frequent movement of heavy trucks and overcomes limitation of single railway lines in the area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The daily requirement of Iron Ore Fines of KIOCL for production of Pellets is about 10,000 metric tonnes. In the month of February, 2006, KIOCL received about 3,380 metric tonnes per day through NMDC from Bellary region.

(b) to (d) Procurement, transportation of iron ore is a commercial issue of the Company. Government does not interfere in it. However, KIOCL finds the cost of bringing iron ore from overseas suppliers as uneconomical due to high international prices and sea freight. Suitable indigenous sources are mines in Jharkhand and Orissa. The raw material has to be moved by rail to eastern coastal sea ports and, then transported by sea route to New Mangalore Port. This is also uneconomical compared to sourcing of iron ore from Bellary Hospet region by rail.

Movement of Iron Ore through Railway from Bellary Hospet region reduces pollution and road traffic congestion. For pollution control, KIOCL has put up water sprinklers at railway siding at Mangalore and the stockyards. It has also erected screens (HDPE Net) at railway siding for this purpose.

Mining operations of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.

2551. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India mining operations in Kudremukh, Karnataka by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) have been stopped since 1st January, 2006;